

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claim 9 is requested to be cancelled.

Claims 10-16 are currently being amended.

Claim 17 is being added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 10-17 (8 claims) are now pending in this application.

The office action of March 12, 2004 and the comments of the Examiner have been considered. In response to the rejections stated in the office action, Applicants have amended the claims by canceling claim 9 and rewriting claim 9 as new claim 17 and amending the other claims to depend from independent claim 17. As demonstrated, however, each of the rejections is believed overcome, with the application being placed in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Paragraph 1, page 2 of the office action, the Examiner has rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In response, Applicants have canceled claim 9 and have rewritten the substance of claim 9 into new independent claim 17. Applicants have utilized the language found in the specification and the figures in rewriting independent claim 17. Applicant submits that reference to basic network and to switching center as utilized in Figs. 1 and 2 and an explanation thereof can be found on page 6, lines 14-15, and page 7, lines 7-10. The specific description of the elements illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2 are described in the specification. Fig. 1 is described on pages 7, 8 and 9 of the specification and Fig. 2 is described on pages 9 and 10 of the specification that was filed as a substitute specification on March 30, 2001.

Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's comments contained in paragraph 2, page 3 of the office action and submits that Khello (USPN: 6,611,584) teaches if a user of an

originating local exchange node requests a supplementary service and there is a conflict or interference with the supplementary service, the interfering service is terminated.

In contrast, the present application provides a method and apparatus for handling intelligent network calls which allow IN service call number portability to be provided without any additional capacity requirements for the switching centers or the IN service platform in the public telephone network.

Applicants have attempted to respond to the several rejections of the claims to the extent necessary to correct any ambiguity cited by the Examiner and to address the prior art cited by the Examiner but with the intent of not limiting the scope of the invention protection afforded by the patent laws and these claims any further than absolutely necessary. It is respectfully submitted that each outstanding rejection has now been overcome and that each claim is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and §1.112 is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

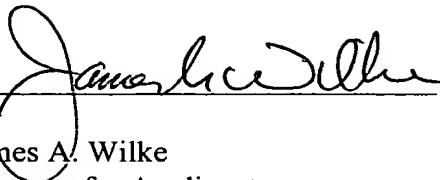
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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